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### DR. BABCOCK RESIGNS T. J. STRAIT NAMED

LANCASTER SENATOR NEW HEAD  
OF INSANE ASYLUM.

Saunders Resigns—J. L. Thompson in Charge Until Dr. Strait Qualifies.

F. Caldwell in News and Courier. Columbia, March 13.—Governor Blease today accepted the resignation of Dr. James W. Babcock as superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, and appointed in his stead Dr. T. J. Strait, of Lancaster. This turn in the events of the asylum came as a climax to the two-days' session of the board of regents.

Dr. Babcock became superintendent of the asylum by appointment of Governor Tillman, August 13, 1891. Dr. Strait is the senator from Lancaster county and was a member of the legislative committee that conducted the recent investigation into the affairs at the State hospital.

Governor Blease was asked whether he had any statement to make with regard to the asylum situation. He said he had none, but would be glad to furnish copies of the official correspondence between himself and those at the asylum, since the letters are a public record which any one is entitled to see. His secretary furnished the copies of the official correspondence and the official notice to the secretary of state indicating the appointment of Dr. Strait as the new superintendent.

Dr. J. L. Thompson, the first assistant physician at the asylum, will have temporary charge of the institution until Dr. Strait qualifies as superintendent.

**Dr. Babcock's Letter.**  
Dr. Babcock's letter to Governor Blease was as follows:

"Columbia, S. C., March 12, 1914.

"The Hon. Cole L. Blease, Governor, Columbia, S. C.—Dear Sir: I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 12 requesting me to put in writing what you have stated to me verbally in reference to your resignation in order that I may take it up with the board of regents of the State Hospital for the Insane at 4 o'clock this afternoon. It is rather difficult, as, of course, you must appreciate, to be entirely accurate as to what transpired in my several talks with you as

to my resignation. The substance of it, however, is this: That on account of the lack of harmony at the State Hospital for the Insane the patients must necessarily suffer, and rather than be a party to such conditions I would prefer to resign.

"This morning I expressed my willingness to the board of regents to cooperate with them for the good of the institution, and it is now for them to say whether we can unite our efforts to this end. If there is not to be cooperation, then I desire to resign from the superintendency of the Hospital for the Insane.

"Yours very respectfully,  
(Signed) "J. W. Babcock."  
Governor Blease's reply follows:

"Columbia, S. C., March 13, 1914.

"Dr. J. W. Babcock, Superintendent State Hospital for the Insane, Columbia, S. C.—Dear Sir: Your resignation, tendered verbally on the 16th day of September, 1913, also through Senators T. J. Mauldin and T. J. Strait, and your written resignation, bearing date March 12, 1914, have been received. After duly and carefully considering the same your resignation as superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane is hereby accepted, to take effect this day.

"Very respectfully,  
"Cole L. Blease,  
"Governor."

**Dr. Saunders Leaves Also.**

Dr. Eleanor Saunders, woman physician at the State Hospital for the Insane, resigned to the board of regents this afternoon, and her resignation was accepted. She will remain at the institution for a few days until her successor is chosen. No action was taken as to the State Park.

It was announced tonight that she and Dr. Babcock will open a private sanitarium in Columbia for the treatment of nervous diseases.

Governor Blease has written Dr. Thompson a letter, and also one to Capt. Bunch, secretary of the board of regents. The letters follow:

"Columbia, S. C., March 13, 1914.

"Dr. J. L. Thompson, First Assistant Physician, State Hospital for the Insane—Dear Sir: Dr. J. W. Babcock having resigned as superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, and his resignation having been accepted this day, you are hereby instructed and requested to take temporary charge as acting superintendent of said institution, to serve until a permanent superintendent is ap-

pointed. You will please advise this day with the board of regents in reference to your work, and any information or advice which I can give you in reference to any matters connected therewith you are at liberty to ask, and it will be my pleasure to comply.

"Yours respectfully,  
"Cole L. Blease,  
"Governor."

"Columbia, S. C., March 13, 1914.

"Capt. J. W. Bunch, Secretary Board of Regents, State Hospital for the Insane—Dear Sir: I have accepted the resignation of Dr. J. W. Babcock as superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, to take effect this day, and have instructed and requested Dr. J. L. Thompson, the first assistant physician to take charge of the institution until the appointment of a permanent superintendent. You will please govern yourself accordingly and consult with Dr. Thompson in regard to such matters as the duties of your office may require.

"Very respectfully,  
"Cole L. Blease,  
"Governor."

The letter to the secretary of state is as follows:

"Columbia, S. C., March 13, 1914.

"Hon. R. M. McCown, Secretary of State—Dear Sir: Governor Blease has this day appointed the Hon. T. J. Strait, of Lancaster, S. C., as superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane for the term provided by law, vice Dr. J. W. Babcock, resigned. "You will please send notice as provided by law.

"Respectfully,  
"John K. Aull,  
"Private Secretary."

**DR. STRAIT WILL ACCEPT.**

Lancaster Physician Will Accept the Head of the State Hospital for the Insane.

The State.

Lancaster, March 14.—When he is officially notified of his appointment as superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, Dr. T. J. Strait will go to Columbia and make arrangements to take charge of the institution, succeeding Dr. J. W. Babcock, resigned.

"I received no official notification," said Dr. Strait this afternoon, "but I agreed to accept the position provided things were so arranged that I would

not be handicapped in the management of the institution. As soon as I receive official notice I will go down and look into the matter and give an answer. While I regret very much to leave home I feel that I might be useful to those miserable inmates."

Dr. Strait is a well known member of his profession. Although a native of Chester county he has lived the greater part of his long life in Lancaster. He has been a physician since he was graduated from the South Carolina Medical college in 1885. He was well known as an educator following the close of the War Between the Sections.

He has been senator from Lancaster county since 1910 and was for six years a member of congress from the Fifth district.

### WON'T PAY CLAIMS.

Comptroller Holds up Items Passed By the Ways and Means Committee.

W. F. Caldwell in News and Courier. Columbia, March 13.—Comptroller General Jones announced this evening that the claims passed on by the ways and means committee of the house would not be paid until the courts rule on them.

Mr. Jones said: "I have declined to pay the claims approved by the ways and means committee of the house, but not acted upon by both houses of the general assembly, for the reason that they do not come within the definition of claims passed by the general assembly on the appropriation act. I was doubtful what course I should follow in this matter and called upon the attorney general for his advice and opinion in writing as to what I should do. He declined to give me an opinion in writing. I, therefore, sought advice of an attorney, who gave me the following answer:

"Answering your question as to whether you have authority under the appropriation act of 1914 to pay certain claims passed upon by the board of claims and favorably reported to the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, I will say that Item 1, of section 39, of the appropriation act, carries an appropriation of \$12,000 to pay claims 'passed by the general assembly.' It does not appear that the claims you refer to have been passed by the general assembly nor by either branch thereof.

It appears that these claims were reported to the house of representatives by the ways and means committee and the report thereon adopted, but it does not appear that the house took further action towards the same, according to the constitutional requirements.

"Aside from the language of the statute it may be known that the general assembly intended to make provision for the payment of the claims you refer to, but you, as comptroller general, as well as the courts, are confined to the language used in the appropriation bill to ascertain the legislative intent. The language used, 'to pay claims passed by the general assembly,' is very definite and certain, the constitution prescribing what is necessary to be done by the general assembly to pass an act.

"I do not think it very likely that the court would hold that the action of the board of claims upon these claims, the report of the ways and means committee thereon and the adoption of that report by the house of representatives would answer the conditions specified and imposed on the item and section of the appropriation act above referred to.

"I do not think you should assume responsibility for paying these claims. It would be for your protection to have the order of the court before paying or issuing your warrant in payment thereof."

The 1913 session of the legislature created a board of claims. This board approved claims of \$201,108.34, including \$190,000 owed the sinking fund, most of which was borrowed for the asylum. The ways and means committee approved claims of \$12,678.01, thus leaving out claims passed on by the board of claims and probably inserting claims not approved by the board. The refusal to pay these claims now brings the matter to an issue. A test case will be put up to the courts. The general assembly appropriated \$12,000 for claims.

Impulse of Thought.  
Philadelphia Record.

Jim—Annie, did year iver think av marryin'?

Annie—Shure, now th' subject has niver intered me thoughts.

Jim—(turning away)—It's sorry Ol am.

Annie—Wan minute, Jimmy, ye've set me a-thinkin'.

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